<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 8, 2007. Claims 138 to 153 are pending in the application, of which Claims 138, 142, 146, 150 and 152 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 138 and 142 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,012,281 (Kusumoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172,244 (Nakahara). Claims 138 to 153 and 154 to 158 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nakahara in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,905,098 (Sakata). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 138 is directed to an output control apparatus communicating with an information processing apparatus via a network and controlling a printer. The output control apparatus includes print counting means for counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer; trouble counting means for counting a trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer; determination means for determining whether or not the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches a predetermined value; specifying means for, if the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value, specifying the trouble count value counted by the trouble counting means until the print count value reaches the predetermined value; transmission control means for controlling transmission of trouble data including the trouble count value specified by the specifying means to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the specified trouble count value, if the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting

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means reaches the predetermined value; and initialization means for, if the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value, initializing the trouble count value, without accepting a manual operation by the user. The transmission control means and the initialization means repeatedly perform transmission control and initialization, respectively, whenever the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value.

Applicant submits that the applied art, either alone or in combination, does not disclose or to suggest all of the features of the present invention. In particular, the applied references, namely Kusumoto, Nakahara and Sakata, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of transmission of trouble data including a counted trouble count value to an information processing apparatus via a network, without receiving a request for outputting the specified trouble count value, if it is determined that a counted print count value reaches a predetermined value, and that an initialization means initializes the trouble count value, without accepting a manual operation by the user, if it is determined that the counted print count value reaches the predetermined value.

In contrast, Nakahara discloses controlling print processing such that, when an error occurs in a digital copier which was printing with sheets of a certain width, another digital copier which retains sheets of the same width performs proxy print processing for the original digital copier. In addition, Kusumoto discloses an image forming apparatus which increments a jam counter (jam counter 1 of a sheet supply roller, jam counter 2 of a sheet discharge roller), when jamming is detected. However, Kusumoto and Nakahara, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a transmission control means for controlling transmission of trouble

data including the trouble count value specified by said specifying means to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the specified trouble count value, if said determination means determines that the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value and an initialization means for, if said determination means determines that the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value, initializing the trouble count value, without accepting a manual operation by the user.

Furthermore, Sakata discloses counting a number of print out operations of facsimile data, and a number of copy operations in the copy mode. However, Sakata fails to disclose or suggest a specifying means, which specifies the trouble count value counted by the trouble counting means until the print count value reaches the predetermined value. According to this feature, it becomes possible to count the number of print troubles per the predetermined value.

Additionally, neither Kusumoto nor Nakahara disclose or suggest the specifying means as featured in Claim 138, since neither of these references refers to a "predetermined value," which triggers the specifying means of the present invention.

In the present Office Action, it is contended that Kusumoto discloses a transmission control means, which controls transmission of trouble data including the specified trouble count value to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the specified trouble count value, if the determination means determines that the counted print count value reaches the predetermined value at column 8, lines 35-48 (paragraph 12 of the Office Action). However, Applicant submits that this portion of Kusumoto recites that input terminals PB0 to PB5 are connected to respective sensors or switches. It

should be noted that the values of jam counters are displayed when switch 80 or 82 is actuated by the user (C02 of Fig. 6A, C10 of Fig. 6B). That is, Kusumoto displays the jam counter values in response to reception of a request for outputting the count values. Kusumoto therefore fails to disclose or suggest transmitting the trouble count value without receiving a request for outputting the trouble count value.

In addition, Kusumoto, Nakahara and Sakata fail to disclose or suggest an initialization means which initializes the trouble count value, without accepting a manual operation by the user, if the determination means determines that the counted print count value reaches the predetermined value, as featured in Claim 138.

Thus, Nakahara, Kusumoto and Sakata, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent Claim 138. In light of this deficiency in Nakahara, Kusumoto and Sakata, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 138 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 142, 146, 150, and 152 are a method, medium, system, and system method, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 138. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 142, 146, 150, and 152 are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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